

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method of synchronizing message transmissions between mobile nodes in an ad-hoc network using a medium access protocol, characterized in that

- the messages are compared with one another with regard to their length and transmission rate,
- a message is sent by a node only when it ascertains that no message is being sent by any other node, and
- a node which receives two colliding message reports this to the sending nodes.

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a TDMA-type protocol is used.

3. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1 or 2~~, characterized in that messages are sent by a node only with a maximum transmission rate.

4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, characterized in that a presence message is sent by each node.

5. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, characterized in that each node has an individual transmission rate.

6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, characterized in that a frame of a node is temporally shifted.

7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, characterized in that a node which receives two colliding messages informs the two sending nodes that they should not send at this point in time.

8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, characterized in that a confirmation vector is used to confirm the connection between nodes.

9. (currently amended) The use of the method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1 for controlling a flow of traffic.